

## New Jersey Seafood Processor COVID-19 Assistance Program

Take notice that the Department of Environmental Protection, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, hereby publishes notice of the availability of the following grant funds:

### A. Name of Grant Program

New Jersey Seafood Processor COVID-19 Assistance Program

### B. Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to provide financial assistance to New Jersey seafood processors, dealers, and processing vessels. The assistance will reimburse eligible COVID-19 expenses incurred between January 27, 2020 and December 31, 2021.

### C. Amount of Money in the Grant Program

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), will be distributing approximately \$723,374 to eligible seafood processing and dealer businesses in the form of direct payments. The funding has been issued from the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to the NJDEP.

### D. Eligible Applicants

Eligible entities include all New Jersey-based seafood processors and dealers, including processing vessels.

### E. Qualifications Needed by an Applicant to be Considered for Funding

All applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for funding:

1. Applicants must be the owner of the business
2. Applicants must be at least 18 years or older
3. Applicant facilities and vessels must be located or home ported in New Jersey
4. Applicants must provide the following identification numbers
  - a. Tax ID Number
  - b. Vendor ID Number from NJStart
    - i. If you do not have a Vendor ID number, you can apply for one here:  
<https://www.njstart.gov/bsol/>
  - c. UEI Number
    - i. If you do not have a UEI number, you can apply for one here:
      1. <https://sam.gov/content/home>
  - d. New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Wholesale Food-Cosmetic license number
  - e. Depending on the business, applicants may also be required to provide the following:

- i. New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife (NJDFW) Bureau of Marine Fisheries ID Number (BMFID) or Conservation ID Number (CID)
  - ii. Federal Dealers Permit Number
- 5. Applicants must have held all required permits and licenses needed to legally operate in New Jersey for all months that the business existed between January 27, 2020 and December 31, 2021. Licenses and permits include the following:
  - a. NJDOH Wholesale Food-Cosmetic license to operate a wholesale food business
  - b. NJDFW dealers permit for federally managed species
  - c. Federal Dealers Permit
  - d. NJDFW Commercial Harvesting or Shellfishing License
  - e. NJDOH Certified Shellfish Dealer certificate to handle oysters, clams, and mussels
- 6. Applicants must provide detailed information for all COVID-19 expenses for which they are applying for reimbursement for, including the item name, quantity, cost, and supporting documentation (such as receipts) showing the incurred expense(s).
- 7. Expenses submitted for reimbursement must fit into one of the following categories:
  - a. Implementation of workplace safety measures to protect workers against COVID-19
    - i. Ex: provide personal protective equipment, thermometers, cleaning supplies, sanitizer, handwashing stations, air filters, new signage
  - b. Implement market pivots to protect workers against COVID-19
    - i. Ex: develop and implement online platforms, use online or print materials to communicate market pivots
  - c. Retrofit facilities for worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19
    - i. Ex: installation and purchase of protective barriers, walk up windows, heat lamps/heaters, fans, tents, propane, weights, tables, chairs, lighting
  - d. Provide health services to protect workers against COVID-19
    - i. Ex: offer/enable vaccinations, testing, or healthcare treatment of infected employees.

#### F. Procedure to apply, Application and Required Submissions

The application for funding under this grant program will be made available on New Jersey's eGrants website <https://njdepsage.intelligrants.com/> known as NJDEP SAGE. Applications will be completed and submitted online. In order to access the online application, applicants will need to create an online portal through SAGE. An online portal can be created [here](#). Once the online application period is opened, applicants will be able to access the application through the previously mentioned portal.

Applicants will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Applicant information
  - a. Address
  - b. Contact information
  - c. Type of entity
  - d. UEI number
  - e. Vendor ID Number
  - f. Tax ID Number

- g. BMFID, CID Number, Federal Permit Number, and/or Department of Health license number(s)
2. Details on all required permits, licenses, and certificates required of the business to operate legally between January 27, 2020 and December 31, 2021
3. Detailed expense reimbursement information for all categories including item, quantity, cost, and purpose
4. Signed affidavit stating that all information provided within this application is true and accurate and that the applicant can provide supporting documentation proving revenue history and losses, which must be provided if requested at any time.

#### I. Address for Application Submittal and Inquiries, and Filing Deadline

Any questions regarding the Grant Announcement may be submitted by email to [njfisheriesaid@dep.nj.gov](mailto:njfisheriesaid@dep.nj.gov).

Applications will be made available on SAGE on **Wednesday, October 19, 2022**. The application period is currently set for 60 days. The submission deadline is **Monday, December 19, 2022** at 5pm EST.

#### J. Date by which Applicants shall be notified:

Applicants will be notified immediately at the time of their application submission if their application has been accepted as eligible or if it will require a manual review to determine eligibility. Applicants that require manual review will be notified as to the eligibility of their application within fourteen (14) business days of application submission. Applicants that require manual review and are deemed ineligible will be notified within fourteen (14) business days of application submission and will receive an appeal form in their online SAGE portal and will be given fourteen (14) days to submit an appeal. Once an appeal has been submitted, the NJ DEP will complete the appeal review within 15 business days.

Payments will be disbursed to eligible applicants after all applications have been reviewed and determined.